



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

Event Name	21-0003 February Winter Weather 2021
Date	February 11, 2021
Time	0900
Operational Period	February 11, 2021- February 12, 2021
Report Number	1

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
DDCs Active	1, 2 & 17

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: Most of the state is quite cold this morning and will likely remain that way as we head through the weekend. An even more intense Arctic air mass arrives on Sunday and encompasses the entire state by late on Monday. Modeling is continuing to suggest lows Monday morning will be well below zero in northern Region 5... and on Tuesday morning, below zero readings will be widespread across Regions 5 and 1 - and possibly as far south as the Concho Valley. Some of the modeling continues to hint that the all-time record low temperature for the state could be threatened either Monday or Tuesday morning in the Panhandle. Many individual cities could see their all-time low temperature record threatened... but some of the higher-resolution modeling as suggesting that the urban heat island in DFW will help keep temperatures well above the all-time record low there.

Regardless of just how cold it gets... the intensity and duration of this air mass will have numerous impacts – especially in the northern half of the state. Strains will be likely on transportation and water infrastructure... as well as the electrical grid. Impacts to livestock exposed to the cold could be devastating. While much of the state will NOT experience below zero readings... a good portion of Texas will see temperatures remaining below freezing for dozens and dozens of hours – if not several days.

Interests in the state should be preparing for a prolonged period of well-below average – if not record-setting – cold... and winter precipitation that causes major disruptions.

Another round of winter weather is anticipated on Sunday, February 14.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 1 (Includes DDCs 4, 5, 6, and 22)

DDC 4A – Hurst (Includes: Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise Counties)

Several accidents and road closures due to weather.

Tarrant County: 133 vehicles were involved in a wreck on IH-35W. Six people have died, and 65 people were injured. Of those injured 36 people were transported to local hospitals and 29 people sought medical care after the crash. Two Trinity Metro buses, one Police Department RV, and one fire bus were requested as warming vehicles for passengers. A phone number was established for a reunification center for families to call to check on their loved ones. The American Red Cross (ARC) has identified a hotel for any out-of-town passengers. Fort Worth PD Victim Assistance and MHMR are working patient reunification needs. Approximately 60 wreckers are currently working to move vehicles. Crews continue to clear roadways. Lighting units are being requested to be deployed. The Fort Worth EOC is activated at Level I.

DDC 4B – Garland (Includes: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall Counties)

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Dallas campus will be delayed until 10:00 AM Friday.

DDC 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes: Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River and Titus Counties)

IH-30 westbound was closed at MM 116 due to a multi-vehicle accident. Traffic was diverted onto the service road. Lamar County has opened four warming centers. ISD's Closed – 14, ISD's Delayed 3.

DDC 6 – Tyler (Includes: Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood Counties)

Road Conditions vary throughout the district, but most areas have ice on all elevated surfaces. Multiple crashes have occurred on IH 20 and Toll 49. TxDOT is working to treat major roadways and has implemented a 24-hour operation schedule. ISD's Closed – 1, ISD's Delayed – 9. The Wood County Courthouse will delay opening Friday.

DDC 22 – Sherman (Includes: Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties)

Cooke County: Interstate Highway (IH) 35, United States Highway (US) 82 and US 75 have icy bridges being reported.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 13 – Bryan (Includes: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington Counties)

ISD's Closed - 5, ISD's Delayed – 3.

Leon County: Leon County offices will delay opening by two hours Friday.

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler Counties)

DDC 15 – Beaumont (Includes: Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties)

DDC 16A – Houston (Includes: Chambers and Harris Counties)

A Winter Weather Advisory is in effect for counties northwest of DDC16A Houston. Advisory cautions about freezing rain which may lead to icing on area roads, bridges, and overpasses. Hazardous weather conditions could impact the road commute throughout the day. Precipitation during the night in DDC16A Houston may lead to some hazardous driving spots, but ice or snow is not expected today.

DDC 16B – Texas City (Includes: Brazoria and Galveston Counties)

ISD's Delayed – 11.

DDC 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties)

Nueces County: The City of Corpus Christi is working with multiple local homeless agencies to ensure shelter, food, blankets, and clothing are provided for those in

need during the severe cold and inclement weather. The Salvation Army has been identified as the lead agency in providing emergency shelter. If the Salvation Army exhausts their intake accommodations, individuals will be referred by the Salvation Army to other shelters expanding their intake.

The City also is working on an operational plan to offer daytime warming centers within the city limits. More details on the warming centers will be provided no later than Friday as the weather forecast becomes more apparent.

Additionally, the City has engaged numerous state and local agencies, including the Texas Department of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Transportation, the Port of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, AEP of Texas, the Corpus Christi Council of Governments, the Downtown Management District, Christus Spohn, the Robstown Fire Department, and the American Red Cross.

DDC 9A – Midland (Includes: Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Midland and Winkler Counties)

Howard County: Howard College in Big Spring and Southwest College for the Deaf is closed Friday.

Dawson County: Howard College in Lamesa is closed Friday.

DDC 10 – San Angelo (Includes: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton and Tom Green Counties)

Kimble County has a warming center set up at the First Baptist Church in Junction for stranded motorists due to the weather. IH-10 east between mile marker 439-470 was closed due to hundreds of stranded vehicles and tractor trailers. There were also multiple accidents in this area. The worst areas are between mile markers (MM) 465-478. The warming center at the First Baptist Church in Junction remains open. There has been one fatality and at least 10 injuries reported due to accidents caused by hazardous road conditions. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) continues to run sand trucks and plows however the plows are not very efficient on ice. The Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) has been working a gridlock of traffic from Junction east to Segovia. There is a stretch of about nine miles where traffic is halted. Ice has been reported to be two inches thick in some places and commercial trucks are unable to move along icy slopes in the roadway.

Region 5 (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, and 7)

DDC 1 – Amarillo (Includes: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher and Wheeler Counties)

The weather is expected to deteriorate over the next five days with extreme wind chills, snow and below freezing conditions. State partners have been put on standby and were told not to report at this time.

DDC 2 – Lubbock (Includes: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum Counties)

The DDEOC will activate to Level III at 5:00 PM today. Overnight, the district has received freezing fog and light precipitation. The City of Lubbock EOC activated at 5:00 AM Thursday. All roadways in the City of Lubbock are open. TxDOT crews continue patrolling and treating roadways throughout the district. The City of Lubbock street department is treating roadways within the city limits. There are four open warming shelters – Salvation Army Lubbock, Open-Door Lubbock, First Baptist Church Tahoka and First Baptist Church Wilson.

DDC 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Wichita, Wilbarger and Young Counties)

Freezing precipitation created hazardous travel conditions along and N of IH-20 with many crashes being reported. Sheppard Air Force Base is closed to non-essential personnel today.

DDC 7 – Abilene (Includes: Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Throckmorton and Taylor Counties)

Some roadways continue to be impacted by ice but there are no road closures. TxDOT continues to monitor/treat as needed and TFS stands ready to assist with operations. There are two shelter/warming center operational, Salvation Army – Abilene and Brown County Home Solutions. ISD's Closed – 2, ISD's Delayed – 8.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 11 – Waco (Includes: Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and McLennan Counties)

McLennan County: City of Bruceville-Eddy city hall closed Friday. McLennan Community College will be closed on Friday. There are two open warming centers in Waco/McLennan County.

DDC 12 – Austin (Includes: Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson Counties)

ISD's Closed - 5, ISD's Delayed – 3.

Bastrop County: All school districts are in normal operations tomorrow except Elgin ISD which was already closed tomorrow. Some icing on bridges and overpasses particularly around the United States Highway (US) 290 & SH 21 area.

Caldwell County: Delayed start of Caldwell County Offices to 10:00 AM Friday.

Hays County: Hays County is pre-treating US 290 between Dripping Springs and Henley around 2:00 AM with sand. Hays County offices will delay opening Friday.

Lee County: Lee County bridges are icing; TxDOT is on the way. Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 696 West has ice on bridges; SH 77 has ice on the bridges. Several collisions but no injuries.

Travis County: Travis County Offices will delay opening Friday at noon. Austin ISD schools are virtual tomorrow. Slight issue earlier on FM 1431 between Lago Vista and Cedar Park, but road was opened as of 6:00 PM Thursday. Austin Community College is closed until noon Friday. SH 71 is closed in both directions at US 290 in Oak Hill due to a crash. State Loop 1 northbound is closed at Scofield Ridge Parkway due to a crash. SH 71 westbound at Burleson Road is closed due to a crash. SH 130 southbound is closed at Parmer Lane due to a crash.

City of Austin: The city has activated its cold-weather plan. Citizens are directed to call 311 for assistance. Many vehicle crashes on roadways due to surface ice. Austin Police closed US 183 between Cameron Road and Cedar Park city limits due to icy conditions. Austin Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ACTEMS) responded to a 26 car accident on SH 45 near RM 620.

City of Pflugerville: State Highway (SH) 130 southbound fly-over to SH 45 was closed due to ice and several collisions but re-opened.

Williamson County: Round Rock closed SH 45 between Louis Henna and Gattis School Road but has since re-opened the roadway. IH 35 northbound was closed at Hesters Crossing due to an 18-wheeler accident but has since re-opened.

City of Cedar Park: Cedar Park PD closed SH 183A toll road overnight due to ice.

City of Leander: US 183 at the San Gabriel River bridge was closed due to hazardous icy conditions but has since re-opened.

DDC 17 – Victoria (Includes: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria Counties)

DDC 17 is activated to Level II (virtual). No agencies are required to report yet. Several state agencies are on standby.

ISD's Closed – 11, ISD's Delayed 2. Texas A&M Central Texas and the University of Mary Hardin Baylor is closed Friday. There are three warming centers open, two in Temple and one in Killeen. Fort Hood access control points will be closed Friday.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM): The State of Texas SOC remains at Readiness Level II Escalated Response Conditions, with Daily Operations staff coordinating daily weather calls, processing disaster declarations, letters to the Governor, Disaster Summary Outlines, State of Texas Assistance Requests (STARs), preparing Snapshots and the State SITREPs. The State Management Team (SMT) continues conducting operations in the Remote SOC, working together with activated members of the State's Emergency Management Council. TDEM District Coordinators are working closely with their local emergency management partners and various members of the public health community to assist with unmet needs and resources.

Contact was made with the Public Utility Commission of Texas to communicate with power providers to ensure adequate power generation capabilities were available to support the high demand for power due to frigid temperatures that will impact the state.

Texas Propane Gas Association was also contacted to ensure appropriate Hours of Service waivers were coordinated with the Texas Department of Public Safety to ensure propane delivery drivers could support the additional calls for propane service to support home heating needs.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife): County Extension Agents standing by to assist local jurisdictions as needed with livestock and crop issues due to winter weather impacts.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): Standing by to provide search & rescue assistance as well as personnel to support winter weather operations as needed.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): Standing by to provide road clearance assistance with five motor graders, six motor grader operators as needed as well as two saw crews for down tree clearance. There are also 10 additional personnel with 4x4 vehicles for support.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): TxDOT is currently experiencing winter weather in a large portion of the State. Snow and ice are affecting the Lubbock, Abilene, San Angelo, Odessa, Wichita Falls, Brownwood, Austin, Waco, Fort Worth, Dallas, Tyler, and Paris Districts. Crews in these areas worked overnight patrolling/treating trouble areas and will maintain 24 hour shifts through the event.

There are 969 roadway sections affected by snow/ice with no closures reported, however traffic is moving slowly. TxDOT District Office crews are pre-treating roadways for ice. Stay up to date by visiting: <https://drivetexas.org/>

Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS): TXDPS has state troopers patrolling impacted roadways assisting with stranded motorists due to icy road conditions.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD has six winter weather response packages preparing for activation on February 12 to support winter weather operations in the Amarillo and Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Waco, and Abilene to support stranded motorist response operations. Winter weather packages consist of a total of 30 high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), 60 personnel, and 5 wreckers.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Rostering available game wardens and four wheeled vehicles to assist with stranded motorist support. TPWD is prepared to support with 432 4x4 vehicles along with 48 boats statewide. Also, TPWD Search and Rescue along with Aviation have been advised of the potential for severe weather and are maintaining a state of readiness.

Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC): Monitoring and communicating with power providers as well as tracking power outages due to winter weather. ERCOT has issued an Operating Condition Notice (OCN) for the potential extreme cold weather which will run from February 11 through February 16.

Infrastructure

Power Outages: Source Eagle-I as of 05:00 AM

Region	# Affected
1	1,159
2	5,822
3	4,144
4	603
5	471
6	47,399
Total	59,598

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TAMUS TFS	Motor Grader/Staff	6	5	Available	Fredericksburg
TAMUS TFS	Staff w/ 4X4 Vehicle Support	10		Available	Fredericksburg
TPWD	4X4 Vehicles		432	Available	
TPWD	Boats		48	Available	

TMD	High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles	60	30		Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Abilene, Fort Worth, and Waco
TMD	Wreckers		5		Amarillo, Wichita Falls, Abilene, Fort Worth, and Waco

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM
 Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management
 Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services
 Texas A&M University System

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>
 Twitter: @TDEM
 (512) 424-2208 (24/7)